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SECRET

Action

Control: 5467
Rec'd: OCTOBER
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Info

FROM: BERLIN

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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 354, OCTOBER 8, 9 PM

SENT DEPARTMENT 354; REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON 89, PARIS 79
MOSCOW 102.

RMR

FROM TIMBERLAKE

I ARRIVED BERLIN BY NIGHT TRAIN MORNING SEVENTH FOR LONG SCHEDULED TWO DAY VISIT. HAD PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED COURTESY CALL ON MAYOR BRANDT WHICH TOOK PLACE 0945 THIS MORNING.

AFTER EXCHANGE USUAL PLEASANTRIES, I NOTED PROBLEM CREATED BY EAST GERMAN FLAGS HOISTED OVER S-BAHN INSTALLATIONS AND ASKED MAYOR'S VIEWS ON SERIOUSNESS SITUATION AND WHAT MEASURES MIGHT BE TAKEN (TO REMOVE FLAGS).

BRANDT SAID EAST GERMAN ACTION PROVOCATIVE, DANGEROUS TO MAINTENANCE LAW AND ORDER AND, IN HIS OPINION, AGAINST ALL INTERESTS IN BERLIN. WE REVIEWED CHRONOLOGY EVENTS SO FAR, NOTING COMMANDANTS THEN MEETING, AFTER WHICH I ASKED BRANDT HIS ESTIMATE POSSIBILITY RENEWED RESISTANCE IN EVENT POLICE ACTION REMOVING FLAGS RENEWED. HE SAID WOULD EXPECT RENEWED AND POSSIBLY STRONGER RESISTANCE.

THE ADDED MIGHT BE FEASIBLE SEND ONE OF EXISTING JOINT (GERMAN
AND AMERICAN MANNED) PATROL JEeps ALONG WITH GERMAN POLICE
SQUAD TO STAND BY BUT NOT REPEAT NOT PARTICIPATE IN ACTION
TO REMOVE FLAG IF SUCH COURSE EVENTUALLY DECIDED UPON. IN
HIS VIEW SUCH PRESENCE ALLIED FORCE MEMBER MIGHT EMPHASIZE
SERIOUS ALLIED VIEW OF PROBLEM AND PERSUADE EAST GERMAN TAKE
NO ACTION AGAINST WEST GERMAN POLICE.

SAID IT SEEMED EAST GERMANS WERE NOW IN GOOD POSITION
PLAY A WAITING GAME AND COULD MAKE THEIR POINT SIMPLY BY

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-2- 354, OCTOBER 8, 9 PM, FROM BERLIN

KEEPING FLAGS FLYING DURATION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS. I SAID QUESTION TAKING ACTION IS, OF COURSE, PROBLEM COORDINATION ON ALLIED AS WELL AS GERMAN SIDE. I ADDED, AS PERSONAL OBSERVATION, THAT I ASSUMED, SHOULD WORKERS FROM WEST BERLIN REMOVE FLAGS (AS LETTER FROM DGB TO BRANDT INDICATED), POLICE WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE TO INTERVENE BECAUSE SUCH AN OVERT THREAT TO LAW AND ORDER COULD NOT BE TOLERATED.

BRANDT REPLIED BY STATING SENATOR LIPSCHITZ, WHO AS INTERIOR SENATOR CONTROLS POLICE, HAD BEEN CALLED BACK FROM VACATION AND ARRIVED THIS MORNING. HE ADDED, SOMEWHAT CRYPTICALLY, THAT LIPSCHITZ MIGHT BE IN POSITION "PLAY BOTH CARDS, POLICE AND THOSE WHO FEEL PROVOKED BY EAST GERMAN ACTION."

I ENDORSE STRONG POSITION TAKEN BY US REPS COMMANDANTS MEETINGS AND BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE PRESS FOR AGREED TRIPARTITE ACTION TO REMOVE FLAGS BEFORE IT BECOMES TOO LATE. SEEMS EVIDENT (SEE USBER TEL 353 TO DEPT) THAT WRAPS MUST BE TAKEN OFF BRIT AND FRENCH REPS (PARTICULARLY LATTER) BEFORE WE CAN EXPECT THEM AGREE TO WHAT WE CONSIDER MINIMUM ADEQUATE RESPONSE TO THIS CHALLENGE.

LIGHTNER

JS/23

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